



**DWIGHT  
EVANS**  
(D-PA 3RD)

**FEDERAL**

# **RESOURCE GUIDE**

**FOR WELCOMING MIGRANT  
FAMILIES & INDIVIDUALS**

# SUMMARY

In recent months, governors in various states have transported individuals and families who have crossed the Southwestern border to northern cities. These trips have been made without proper coordination between officials at destination sites, without full communication with the federal government, and with dubious legal standing.

Due to this lack of communication, many states and municipalities are welcoming these families and facilitating their travel, while providing necessary resources and services to meet their needs, despite the lack of coordination and assistance from their corresponding offices in other states.

This guide includes information about federal resources that can be used to welcome and support these families. While these arrivals are welcomed and aided at the ground level, the federal government has a responsibility to assist state and local governments, as well as community nonprofits, and ensure that those entering our country remain safe.

This is not an exhaustive list of all resources available, but aims to provide the necessary guidance to offer immediate help and build capacity for cities and community groups to be the welcoming places they strive to be.

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# EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER PROGRAM (EFSP) - REGULAR

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## PURPOSE

EFSP-Regular provides grants to local governments and nonprofits to supplement existing efforts to provide shelter, food, and supportive services to individuals and families experiencing, or at risk of experiencing hunger or homelessness.

## ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Local nonprofits
- Faith-based organizations
- Local government agencies

## ELIGIBLE COSTS

- Food, including costs for the local delivery/distribution of food to providers
- Shelter, including mass sheltering sites
- Costs for transportation of individuals to mass feeding/sheltering sites
- Temporary rent or mortgage assistance
- emergency repairs of equipment and facilities essential to mass feeding or sheltering

## PROCESS TO RECEIVE FUNDS

Eligible entities can seek assistance and submit applications to Local EFSP Boards. Local Boards are responsible for setting funding priorities, determining community needs, and selecting grant recipients.

To find your Local Board, and for more detailed information on eligible costs and procedures, please refer to the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program's website [here](#).

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## COORDINATION OF TRAVEL FOR INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES ENCOUNTERED BY DHS

*Since September 22, 2022, as an eligibility condition for EFSP recipients receiving reimbursements for interstate transportation, organizations must ensure coordination of travel for migrants is conducted and that data is properly shared with receiving jurisdictions. Any organization that wishes to access EFSP funding for facilitating interstate travel, or that uses EFSP funding to refer migrants to other organizations for interstate travel, must properly document and coordinate any interstate vehicle transportation of migrants with the receiving entities. Failure to do so may make organizations ineligible for EFSP funding.*



**In addition to several sources of funding for EFSP-Humanitarian,**

**Congress has approved up to an additional \$785 million that may be provided for EFSP-Humanitarian relief in Fiscal Year 2023.**







## EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER PROGRAM (EFSP) - HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

### PURPOSE

EFSP-Humanitarian provides similar funding as EFSP-Regular (for shelter, food, and supportive services) specifically for families and individuals crossing the Southwest Border and encountered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).



## ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Local nonprofits
- Faith-based organizations
- Local government agencies

## ELIGIBLE COSTS

- Primary services – only food and shelter
- Secondary services – including health & medical services
- Administrative services – staff time, postage, etc.
- Equipment & assets services – certain renovations to facilities, including purchases and leasing
- Transportation services – including local and domestic long-distance travel for migrants and agency staff assisting migrants while traveling

## PROCESS TO RECEIVE FUNDS

Unlike regular EFSP, Local Boards are responsible for providing recommendations to the National EFSP Board for funding, and the National Board makes award determinations. Eligible organizations can submit applications via the National Board webpage for reimbursement and can request advance funding by contacting their Local Board to inquire about their submitting a Humanitarian Advanced Funding Request (HAFR).

HAFR funding is available for Local EFSP Boards and State Set-Aside Committees (SSA) directly from the National EFSP Board, requested on behalf of service agencies in a local community.

To determine your Local Board, and to find more detailed information about eligible costs and procedures, or information about HAFR funding, please refer to the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program's Humanitarian Funding Information [here](#).

## QUICK FACTS

Since April 2022, the following cities have welcomed families and individuals transported without coordination from outside states:

- New York City has welcomed over 36,000 individuals
- Washington, D.C. has welcomed 8,300 individuals
- Chicago has welcomed over 3,700 individuals
- Philadelphia has welcomed over 630 individuals
- Martha's Vineyard has welcomed 50 individuals
- Denver has welcomed over 4,370 individuals



# COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANTS (CSBG)

## PURPOSE

CSBG is a federally funded grant through the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of Community Services in the Administration for Children and Families. It provides funds to states, territories, and tribes to administer support services to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in under resourced communities. Most cities already have CSBG "eligible entities" in their jurisdictions that can use the grant to provide support for arriving migrants.

## ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

States, territories (including Washington, D.C.), and tribes. Once received by states, territories, or tribes, funds are required to pass through to "eligible entities" (usually Community Action Agencies (CAAs)) that have long-standing federal designations. Distribution of these funds among local agencies is left to the discretion of the state.

## ELIGIBLE COSTS

Local activities vary depending on the needs of individual communities. CSBG eligible entities have broad latitude to use funds to support activities that are designed to assist low-income families and individuals. As such, there is no "typical" CAA, since each agency designs its own functions based on community needs.

Possible eligible activities include: housing, nutrition, transportation, utility assistance, employment, education, income and asset building services, crisis and emergency services, and community asset building initiatives.

## PROCESS TO RECEIVE FUNDS

Your local CAAs, the primary recipients of funds, can be found through the National Community Action Partnership [here](#).



## ELIGIBILITY FOR NON-CITIZENS

CSBG requires that recipients meet appropriate income thresholds (up to 200% of the federal poverty line), but there are no other eligibility requirements.



# HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS – EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT

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## PURPOSE

ESG is a formula grant to cities, counties, and state governments to assist those experiencing homelessness, primarily for emergency shelter and service needs, but also for homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing.

## ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

- Metropolitan cities (including D.C.), urban counties, states (including Puerto Rico), and U.S. territories.
- Local government grantees may subgrant funds to nonprofits, public housing authorities, and local redevelopment authorities while states may subgrant funds to nonprofits.

## ELIGIBLE COSTS

- Short- to medium-term rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services
- Costs of emergency shelter, including renovation, rehabilitation, or conversion of buildings into emergency shelters
- Services including employment counseling, health care, and education

## ESG ELIGIBILITY FOR IMMIGRANTS

The following ESG services may be available to migrants notwithstanding their immigration status:

- Emergency shelter
- Rapid rehousing
- Street outreach services

In order to qualify for these ESG assistance programs, a migrant must meet HUD's definition of "homeless" (42 U.S.C. § 11302).

## PROCESS TO RECEIVE FUNDS

As a formula grant, ESG funds are accessed through existing funding streams to cities, counties, and states. Local agencies and nonprofits should coordinate with their state and/or local governments regarding fund disbursement. Points of contact for state and local grantees can be found on HUD's [website](#).





# HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS – CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC)

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## PURPOSE

The Continuum of Care (CoC) program is a competitive grant that funds housing and services for people experiencing homelessness through several eligible activities.

## ELIGIBLE ENTITIES & PROCESS TO RECEIVE FUNDS

Local communities must first establish CoC advisory boards to apply for CoC program funds. Eligible grantees within the CoC application process are state and local governments, public housing authorities, and nonprofit organizations. Most parts of the country already have a CoC advisory board in place. Points of contacts for state and local CoCs can be found on HUD's [website](#).

## ELIGIBLE COSTS

- Transitional housing
- Safe Havens
- Rental assistance for permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing
- Supportive services – including case management, child care, education services, employment assistance and job training, housing searches, like skills training, legal services, mental health services, outpatient health services, substance abuse treatment, transportation, and payment of moving costs and utility deposits.



## COC ELIGIBILITY FOR IMMIGRANTS

The following CoC services may be available to migrants notwithstanding their immigration status:

- Safe Havens
- Rapid rehousing
- Transitional housing (if the CoC recipient owns or leases to the building used to provide transitional housing)

In order to qualify for these CoC assistance programs, a migrant must meet HUD's definition of "homeless" (42 U.S.C. § 11302).

## BEST PRACTICES

Eligible nonprofits should ensure that they are registered with the Federal Government's System Award Management (SAM) to be eligible to apply for grants. Make sure that your organization has a registered Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) and Unique Entity ID (UEI). More information on registering your organization with SAM can be found at [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

Organizations should work from the bottom up focusing efforts on coordination with local governments, then state governments, and then the federal government as necessary. Local governments will have the most immediate ability to meet the needs of families and individuals and should be the primary point of cooperation for nonprofits and faith-based organizations, with supplemental assistance from state and federal funding sources.

Local aid groups should utilize existing funding structures before attempting the process to receive new funding. This means working with local Community Action Agencies (CAAs), Emergency Solutions Grants Programs (ESGP), and Continuum of Care (CoC) Advisory Boards, which already have the means or obligation to access funding.

Local aid groups and local governments should reach out to their region's FEMA coordinator. These officials may assist in coordinating efforts of aid groups and volunteers, and can keep groups informed of EFSP resources and changes to situations on the ground. Regional coordinators can be found on FEMA's website [here](https://www.fema.gov).

